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ABSTRACT

This study reports on the results of a survey of current graduate students at Boise State University (BSU) in Idaho, seniors with good grade point averages, and individuals working in the Boise area mainly in the areas of technology and education. Survey respondents (N=297) were asked what obstacles kept or had kept them from enrolling in graduate school; which services they would or did find most helpful to attract and retain them; reasons why they might pursue a graduate degree; and general perceptions of BSU. Obstacles to graduate study identified were: finances, work schedules, and course availability. Desirable services cited by respondents were: summer courses, graduate assistantships, courses through distance learning, childcare, and graduate housing. Personal satisfaction, career advancement, improved earnings, and requirements of their job were reasons given for attending graduate school. Most respondents agreed that BSU has a quality faculty and a good academic reputation, but only about half agreed that BSU has modern labs and equipment or that there is good support for graduate programs. Findings also indicated that potential graduate students were slightly younger than current graduate students, and that a vast majority of graduate students will continue to enroll on a part-time basis, scheduling courses between work and other commitments. The survey and detailed responses are appended. (MAH)

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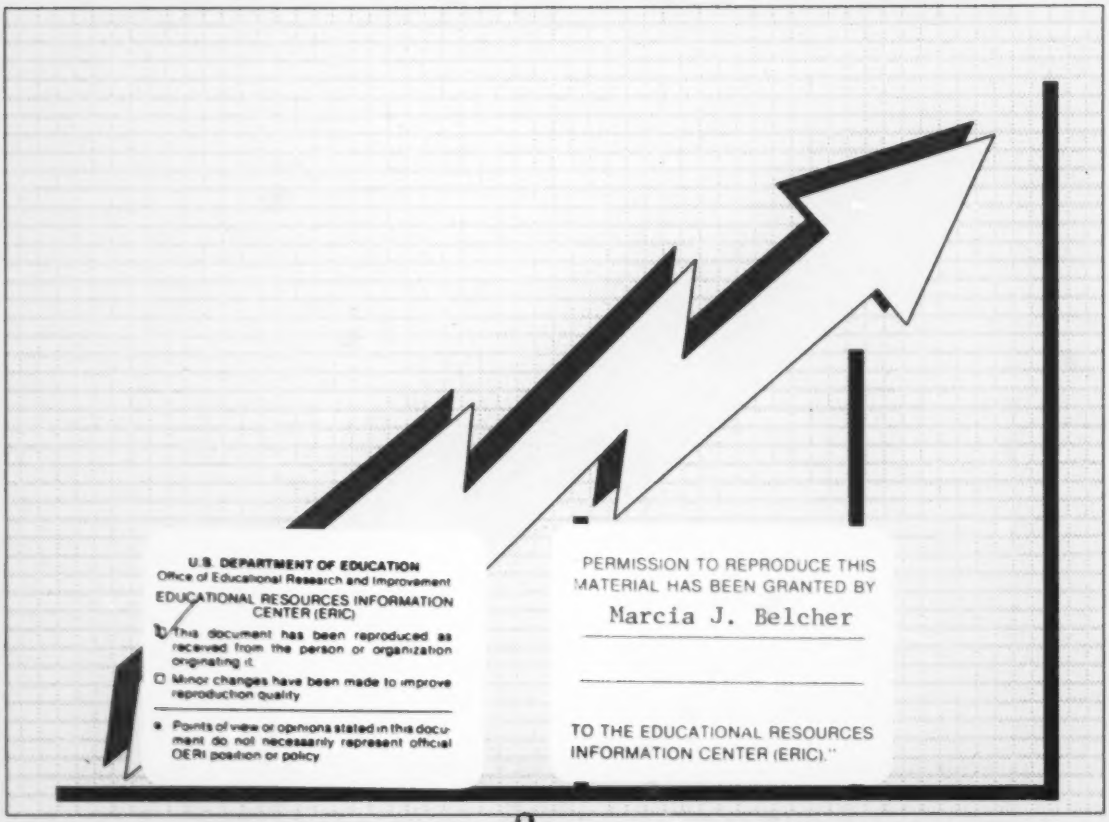
A Survey of Current & Potential Graduate Students

Research Report 96-04

Institutional Assessment



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Boise State University

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A Survey of Current & Potential Graduate Students

Research Report 96-04

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September 1996

A Survey of Current and Potential Graduate Students

ABSTRACT

This study was undertaken at the request of the Enrollment Management Committee. As part of the overall plan to manage enrollment at BSU over the next few years, the committee proposed that the percentage of FTE from graduate credits move from 5% to 10% of the total. This study reports on the results of a survey that asked current and potential graduate students what obstacles kept them from enrolling in graduate school, which services they would find most helpful to attract and retain them, reasons why they might pursue a graduate degree, and general perceptions of BSU.

The survey was based on a sample of 300 current graduate students, 300 students who were seniors with good GPAs, and 100 respondents working around Boise mainly in the areas of technology and education. About half returned the survey.

Obstacles to Graduate Study:

- The biggest obstacles, 65% of the respondents agreed, were finances and work schedules.
- About half thought program or course availability was an obstacle.
- The enrollment process and motivation were least likely to be viewed as obstacles. Only a fourth agreed these were obstacles.
- For current graduate students, work schedule and course availability were considered the biggest impediments while finances were the biggest obstacle for potential graduate students.

Desirable Services:

- The most desired service was summer courses; 68% agreed summer courses would make it more likely for them to attend and complete graduate school.
- About 55% thought graduate assistantships and courses through distance learning would be desirable.

- Childcare at BSU and graduate student housing were services that respondents were least likely to mention as helping their attendance. They were selected by 22% and 13% of the respondents respectively.

Reasons to Attend Graduate School:

- Most (90%) respondents thought a graduate degree would be personally satisfying. This was the most frequent reason given for attending graduate school.
- Slightly over 80% thought graduate study was attractive because it could advance their career, while over 70% found it attractive because they would earn more.
- Only about 20% thought it was attractive because their job required it.

Perceptions of BSU:

- Respondents were most likely to agree that BSU has quality faculty (63% agreement) and a good academic reputation (62% agreement).
- Only about half agreed that BSU has modern labs and equipment or that there is good support for the graduate programs.
- When asked if BSU has a good academic reputation, potential graduate students were most likely to agree.
- When asked if BSU has modern laboratories and equipment, current graduate students were *least likely* to agree.

Findings indicate that potential graduate students differ very little from current graduate students except that they are slightly younger. It appears that a vast majority of graduate students will continue to enroll on a part-time basis, sandwiching courses between work and other commitments.

A Survey of Current and Potential Graduate Students

As an institution that began as a junior college without land-grant or other federal status, BSU has focused on the primary mission of undergraduate education. Graduate-level programs and services have traditionally taken a backseat. Though master's degrees have been offered for 25 years, the enrollments have been small compared to the baccalaureate and vocational/technical programs. As part of the current emphasis on enrollment management, however, graduate enrollment is being studied with the goal of boosting enrollment at the graduate level from 5% of total FTE to 10%.

A review of the literature turned up very little about recruitment and retention of graduate students. To begin the process, therefore, it was decided that information was needed on who our graduate and potential graduate students are, what obstacles they see to enrolling and staying in graduate school, what things would attract them to BSU, and what their general perceptions are of BSU as a graduate-level academic institution. The survey developed to gather this information can be found in Appendix A.

Who Was Surveyed?

In order to obtain as broad a picture as possible, both current and prospective graduate students were surveyed. Among current graduate students, all students with a graduate classification who had active records in the spring of 1996 were selected. Of the 2,976 students who fit this definition, a sample of 300 was drawn. After eliminating any students with addresses outside the United States, the final sample was 297.

To survey potential graduate students, two approaches were used. First, we assumed that many of the enrollments in graduate school came from those who completed their undergraduate work here and had done well. Thus, all students who were classified as seniors with a grade point average of 2.75 or better were selected as the sample population. From the 3,271 students who met this definition, a sample of 300 was drawn. After eliminating foreign addresses, the final

sample was 299. This sample represented students who might possibly be continuing their education at BSU soon at the graduate level.

We wanted to also include respondents who were not directly linked to BSU. Thus, graduate students who were enrolled in a research course in the department of Instructional and Performance Technology at BSU were asked to help. Besides reviewing the literature, interviewing individuals with a perspective on the issue and developing initial items, the group took 100 surveys and distributed them at their work sites and to friends. Most surveys were distributed either at Micron or in the public school system. In this way, potential graduates who did not currently have contact with BSU could be surveyed.

Of the 696 surveys distributed, 352 or 51% were returned. About 55 were from the group of 100 distributed by the class. Thus, 297 or about 50% of those sampled from BSU returned their surveys.

About 30% of the returns were from students currently in graduate school; 104 students indicated that they were currently enrolled in graduate programs, and 97 indicated they were in graduate programs at BSU. They formed the basis of the "Current Graduate Student" group. Most of these students were majoring in Business, Education, or Educational Technology/Instructional and Performance Technology (see Table 1 for a listing of majors).

Of the 235 who said they were not in graduate school, 144 or 61% said they were interested in graduate school. These students formed the group of "Potential Graduate Students." The remaining respondents who indicated they were not interested in graduate school were placed in a third group of "Uninterested Respondents."

Most respondents (60%) were female. There was some variability by gender in the three groups but not enough to be statistically significant. The groups did, however, differ significantly in age. About 36% of current graduate students were between 26 and 30 and an additional 31% were

between 31 and 40. Potential graduate students were younger while those who were not interested in graduate school were more likely to be older (see Table 2).

Table 1

Graduate Major at BSU

Major	Number	Percentage
Education	21	25%
Business	15	18%
Education Technology/IPT	15	18%
History	6	7%
Exercise Physiology	4	5%
Public Administration	4	5%
Counseling	3	4%
Interdisciplinary Studies	3	4%
Music	3	4%
Geology/Geophysics	2	2%
Social Work	2	2%
English	2	2%
Raptor Biology	1	1%
Nursing	1	1%
Engineering	1	1%
Communication	1	1%
Total	84	100%

Table 2

Age by Group Percentages

Age	Current		Interested		Not Interested		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
21-25	7	9%	33	26%	13	16%	53	18%
26-30	29	36%	28	22%	18	22%	75	26%
31-40	25	31%	33	26%	19	23%	77	27%
41 & Over	20	25%	34	27%	31	38%	85	29%
	81	**100%**	**128**	**100%**	**81**	**100%**	**290**	**100%**

$\chi^2 = 16.6, p < .01$

What Factors Did Respondents See as Obstacles to Completing a Graduate Degree?

Family obligations, work schedule, finances, program/course availability, the enrollment process, and motivation were all felt to be obstacles which could keep people from pursuing a graduate degree. Respondents selected a "1" if they strongly agreed that each was an obstacle, "2" if they agreed it was an obstacle, a "3" if they disagreed that it was an obstacle, a "4" if they strongly disagreed, and a "5" if the factor was not applicable for them. Thus, the lower the number, the more the factor was perceived as an obstacle. Table 3 displays the results.

Table 3
Rating of Obstacles to Graduate Study

Obstacle	Mean	Standard Deviation	N	% Agreeing
Finances	2.26	1.22	321	65.4
Work Schedule	2.36	1.28	331	65.0
Program/course availability	2.50	1.30	320	51.6
Family Obligations	2.65	1.42	326	55.8
Enrollment Process	3.06	1.14	312	28.2
Motivation	3.17	1.14	312	26.6

Finances and work schedules were the two greatest obstacles perceived by the group, while availability of courses or programs of study were in a more distant third place. About 65% agreed finances and work schedule were obstacles while slightly more than half thought the availability of courses or programs were. Table 4 summarizes the programs of study that the potential graduate students were interested in. Many of the programs are already offered, especially in Business, Education, and Technology, the top three vote-getters.

The only difference between current and potential graduate students was in the area of financing their education, with potential graduate students seeing it as more of an obstacle than current students. Figure 1 displays the comparative mean agreement ratings of the obstacles for current and potential graduates. Note that for current graduate students, work schedule and course

Table 4
Areas of Interest for Graduate Students

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

General	23	32%
Special Education	3	4%
Early Childhood	6	8%
*Adult Education	4	6%
*Vocational Education	2	3%
Physical Education	3	4%
Reading	5	7%
Curriculum & Instruction	1	1%
*Education Administration	3	4%
*Math	1	1%
Science	3	4%
Elementary Education	2	3%
Bilingual Education	1	1%
Education Technology	4	6%
Counseling	6	8%
Athletic Administration/Training	3	4%
Other	1	1%
Subtotal	71	28%

TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTERS

General	3	17%
Production Management/MLS	2	11%
IPT	12	67%
Network Consultant	1	6%
Subtotal	18	7%

ARTS & SCIENCES

Art	5	26%
Graphic Design	1	5%
Music	2	11%
*Theatre/Drama	2	11%
Raptor Biology	3	16%
*Physics	1	5%
Geology	3	16%
*Biochemistry	1	5%
*Foreign Language	1	5%
	19	7%

SOCIAL SCIENCES & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

History	7	13%
Social Work	13	24%
Communication	4	7%
*Sociology	2	4%
Public Administration	7	13%
*Law	5	9%
*Psychology	10	19%
*Criminal Justice	4	7%
*Political Science	1	2%
General	1	2%
Subtotal	54	21%

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

General	7	14%
MBA	14	28%
*Management	4	8%
*Marketing	6	12%
Accounting	5	10%
*International Business	2	4%
*Production Management	3	6%
*Human Resources Management	3	6%
*Small Business Administration	1	2%
*Economics	2	4%
CIS	2	4%
*Finance	1	2%
Subtotal	50	20%

HEALTH SCIENCE

General	4	14%
*Nursing	7	24%
*Nutrition	3	10%
*Respiratory Care	1	3%
*Physical Therapy	1	3%
*Radiology	1	3%
*Occupational Therapy	1	3%
*Environmental Health	1	3%
*Occupational Health	1	3%
*Rehabilitation	2	7%
*Medicine	3	10%
*Health Care Administration	1	3%
*Speech Pathology	1	3%
Health Policy	1	3%
*Toxicology	1	3%
Subtotal	29	11%

OTHER

*Administration	1	8%
*Forestry	2	15%
*National Resources	2	15%
*American Studies	1	8%
*Human Performance	1	8%
*Women's Studies	1	8%
*Engineering	3	23%
*Construction Management	1	8%
*Geography	1	8%
Subtotal	13	5%
Total	**254**	**100%**

***No current graduate program available**

Percentages subject to rounding error

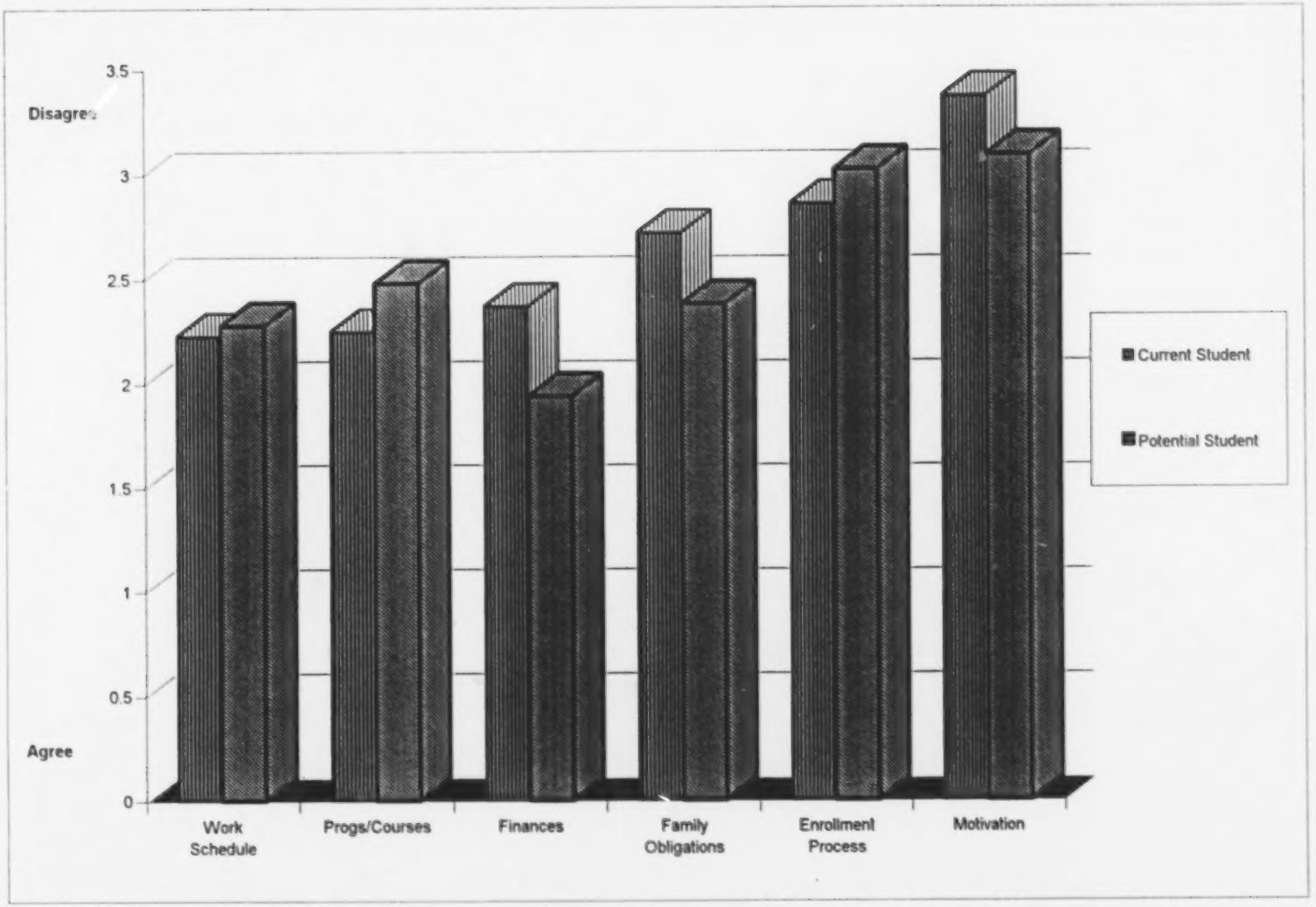

Figure 1. Obstacles to Graduate Study

availability were considered the biggest impediments while finances were the biggest obstacle for potential graduate students.

What Services Would Make it More Likely for Students to Attend and Complete Graduate School?

Using the same 1-to-5 scale, respondents were asked to rate the following eight services according to how much they agreed that the service would help them attend and complete graduate school: child care at BSU, graduate assistantships, graduate student housing, career advisement, internships with local employers, courses offered through distance learning, summer courses, and programs in their areas of interest. Again, lower numbers indicate stronger agreement.

The service rated most helpful was summer courses. This was followed by graduate assistantships and courses offered through distance learning. Childcare and graduate student housing were last in the ratings. See Table 5 for details.

Table 5

Ratings of Services that Could Help Attract and Retain Graduate Students

Service	Mean	Standard Deviation	N	% Agreeing
Summer courses	2.24	1.24	314	68.2
Graduate Assistantships	2.62	1.44	322	55.6
Distance Learning Courses	2.64	1.41	312	53.5
Internships with Employers	2.73	1.48	317	53.0
Career Advisement	2.81	1.39	317	48.9
Programs/courses	2.88	1.73	172	51.7
Childcare at BSU	3.82	1.45	323	22.0
Graduate Student Housing	3.88	1.22	314	13.1

In no instances were significant differences found between current graduate students and potential graduate students on their ratings of each service. There were some differences, however, in the order of the mean ratings the two groups gave for services. Current graduate students rated "more summer courses" as the service they would like most, followed by courses through distance learning and career advice. Potential graduate students also rated summer courses as the service they would most like to see. This was followed, however, by graduate assistantships and then courses through distance learning. See Figure 2 for details.

What Attracts Students to Graduate School?

Of all the reasons students might attend graduate school, the most important reason by far, respondents said, was that they would find it personally satisfying. In order of importance, this was followed by the reasons of career advancement and improved earnings. Respondents were least likely to agree that they would pursue a graduate degree because of job requirements. See Table 6 for details.

Table 6
Ratings of Why a Graduate Degree would be Attractive

	Mean	Standard Deviation	N	% Agreeing
Personally satisfying	1.65	0.95	323	90.1
Advance career	1.91	1.14	327	82.3
Earn more	2.16	1.27	330	72.7
Want career change	2.98	1.34	320	39.7
Job Requirement	3.50	1.26	315	21.6

As expected, there were differences between current and potential students on ratings of reasons students might be attracted to graduate school. Potential graduate students were more likely to consider increased earnings as a reason than current graduate students. The two groups also differed from each other on wanting a career change as a reason with current graduate students more strongly agreeing that this was a reason. Figure 3 shows the mean ratings for current and

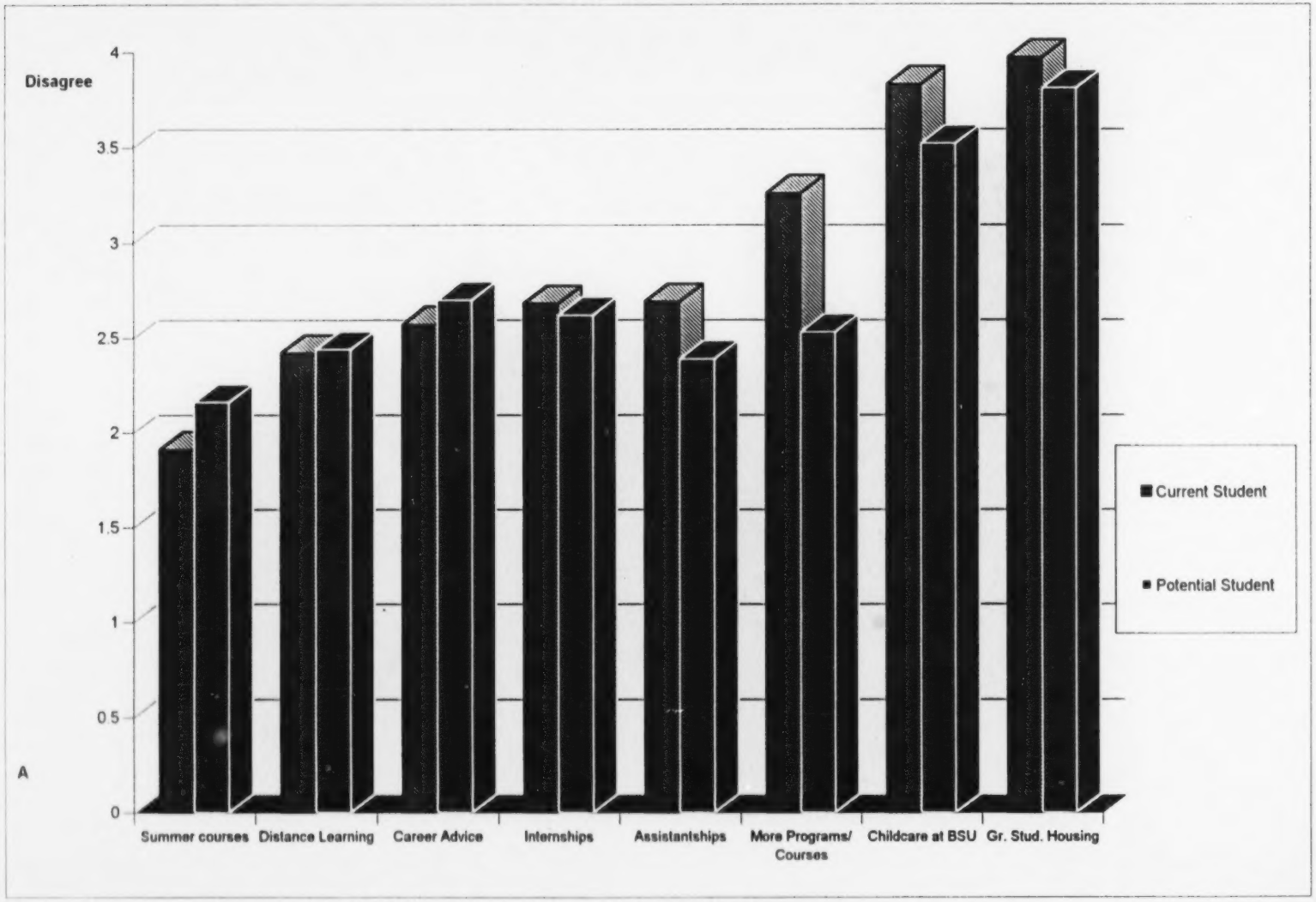

Figure 2. Services which students agreed would help Graduate School Attendance and Completion

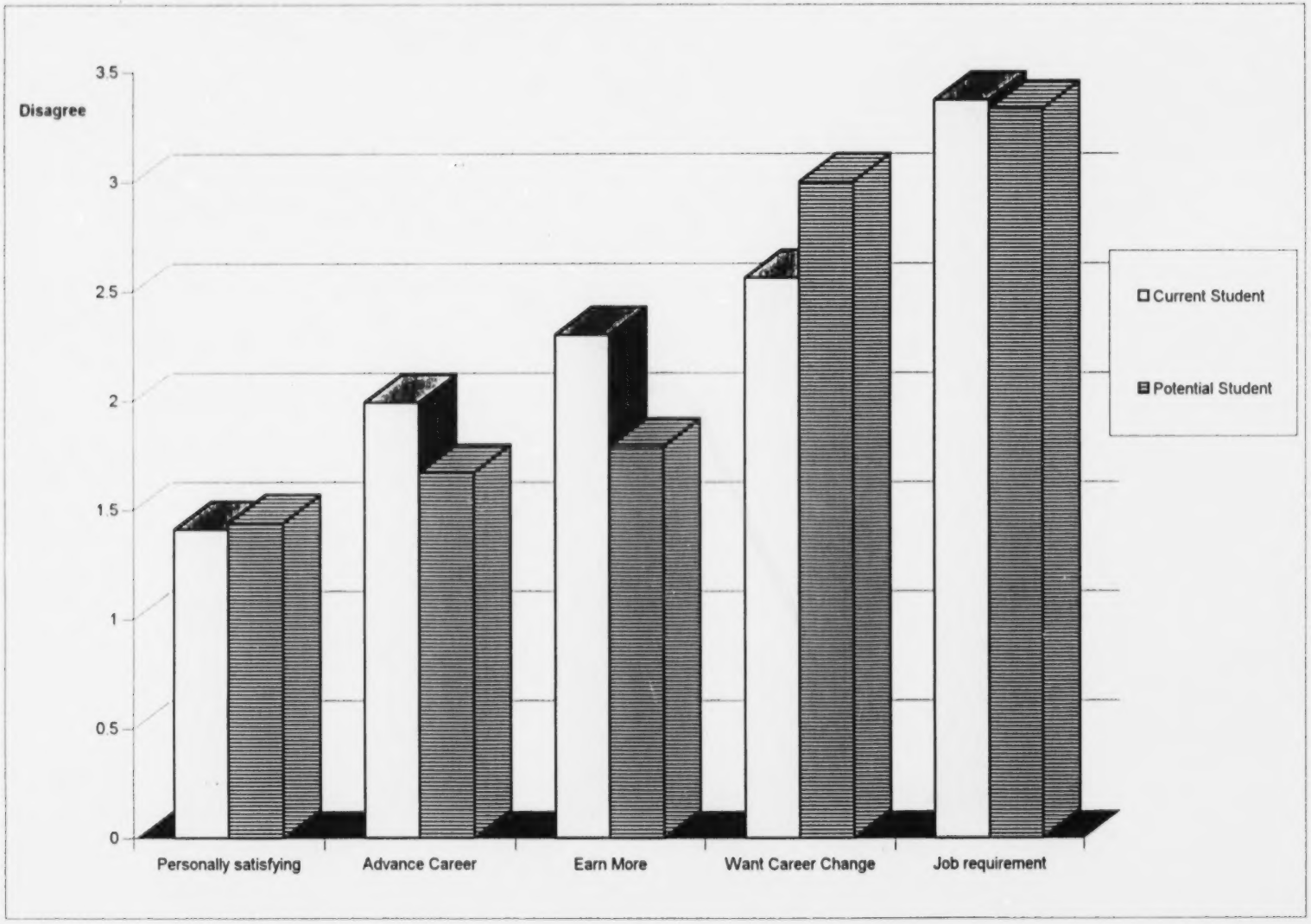

Figure 3. Factors which students agree would make a Graduate Degree Attractive

potential graduate students on the five reasons students might be attracted to graduate school. The order was the same for both current and potential students.

What are the General Perceptions of BSU?

In order to discover how respondents felt about BSU and whether this differed for those in or considering graduate school compared to those not interested, respondents were asked to indicate the extent of their agreement to four statements:

BSU has a good academic reputation.
BSU has quality faculty.
BSU has modern laboratories and equipment.
There is good support for graduate programs at BSU.

Respondents were most likely to agree that BSU has quality faculty with 63% agreeing. This was followed by academic reputation (62% agreement), modern labs and equipment (55% agreement) and support for graduate study (47% agreement). Results can be found in Table 7. Again, lower means indicate more agreement with the statement.

Table 7
Perceptions of BSU

Item:	Mean	Standard Deviation	N	% Agreeing
BSU has quality faculty	2.16	0.76	329	62.6
BSU has good academic reputation	2.36	0.83	322	61.5
BSU has modern labs & equipment	2.69	1.14	326	55.2
Good support for graduate programs	2.81	1.07	316	46.5

Differences among the groups were found for two of the four statements (See Table 8). For academic reputation, potential graduate students more strongly agreed that BSU has a good academic reputation than either current graduate students or uninterested respondents. Current

graduate students were *less likely* to agree that BSU has modern laboratories and equipment than either potential graduate students or uninterested respondents.

Table 8
Significant Group Differences on Perceptions of BSU

Service	Group 1 Current	Group 2 Potential	Group 3 Uninterested	Significant Difference Between
Good Academic Reputation	2.58	2.14	2.47	2 & 3
Modern Labs and Equipment	3.01	2.58	2.55	1 & 3, 1 & 2

Note: Significance levels of .05 or better were used to test for statistical significance. One way ANOVA with follow-up comparisons using Tukey's HSD were employed.

Both current and potential students rated quality faculty highest, then academic reputation. The differences were in how strongly they agreed. See Figure 4 for further details.

Other Comments From Respondents

The end of the survey offered a place for respondents to make comments, and many of them chose to do so. Most of the comments focused on what BSU needs. At the top of the list of needs was a better selection of programs at the graduate level (mentioned in 15 responses). One respondent noted, for example, that BSU needs to have a "wider selection in the master's program for teachers." Another indicated that he/she was "presently taking [an] undergraduate major because no graduate programs or even graduates courses [were available] in Theatre." Other examples can be found by scanning the comments in Appendix B and looking at areas of interest respondents noted.

Closely followed by comments about more programs were comments about the need for better instruction. This theme occurred in 13 of the comments. One of the respondents wrote, "I found some of the professors very negative. I had a difficult time finishing some courses because of their attitude. It reflected in my grades in these classes." Another respondent wrote, "Faculty needs to work collaboratively to create quality programs. Programs and courses need to cross department lines through the university. Tenured faculty need to be accountable."

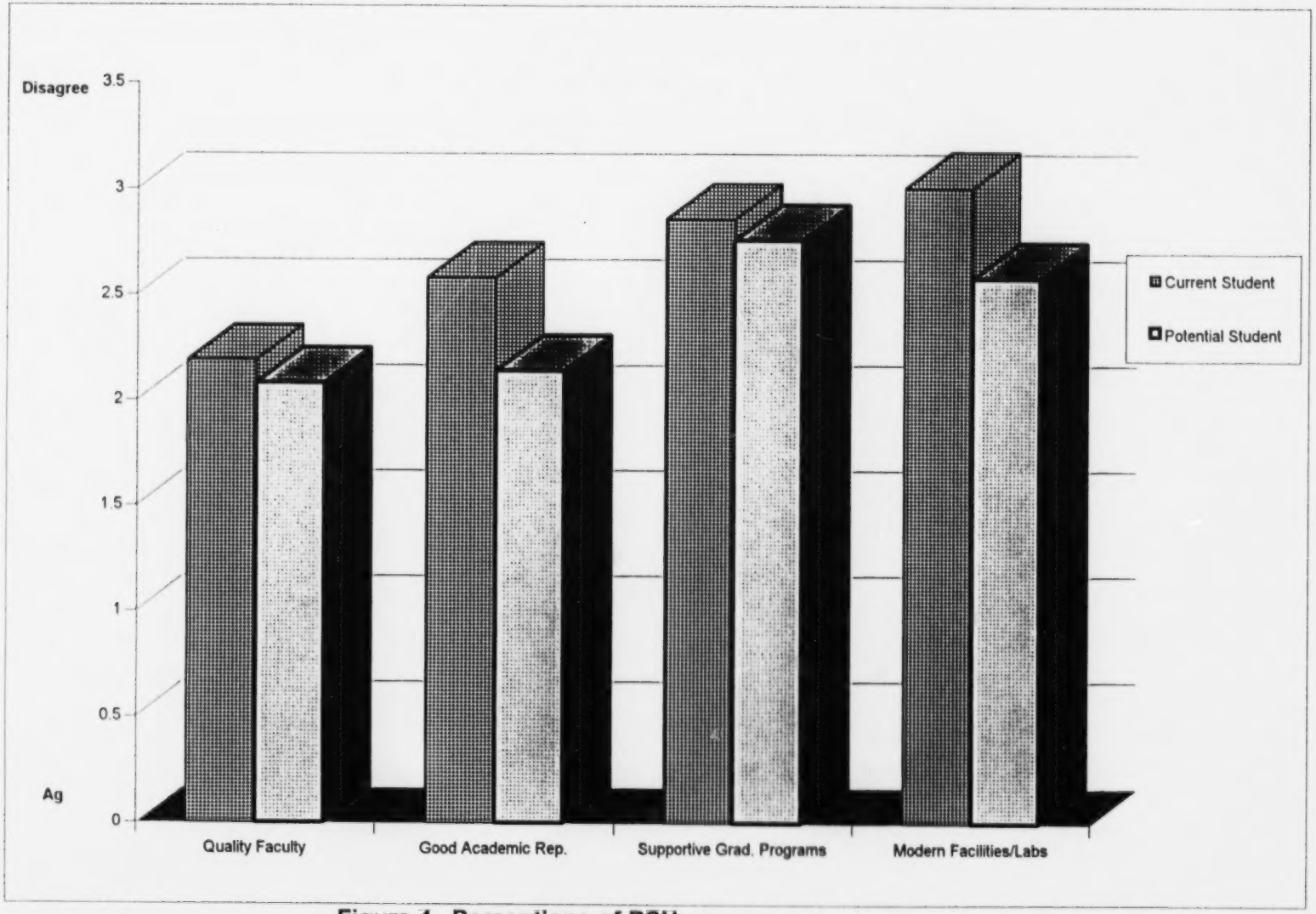

Figure 4. Perceptions of BSU

Other needs were mentioned by much smaller numbers of respondents. Needs that were mentioned by four or five respondents include better enrollment processes, better program support, better record-keeping by the University (mainly from students who should not have received the survey), and more flexibility in dealing with students and their needs.

Most of the remaining responses were related to personal problems or issues that respondents had. The two most frequently mentioned issues were that family and/or financial obstacles did not allow the respondent to pursue a graduate degree at this time and that there were no real incentives for the respondent to pursue an additional degree. A full listing of the comments can be found in Appendix B.

Summary and Conclusions

The purpose of this study was to survey current and potential graduate students on the obstacles they face, the services they want, the reasons they might have for attending graduate school, and the perceptions of BSU that might influence their decision to begin or continue graduate study.

Respondents reported that the biggest obstacles that they needed to overcome in order to attend and remain in graduate school were related to work and to finances. Potential graduate students in particular were most likely to agree that finances were an obstacle. Current graduate students worried more about getting courses and juggling their work schedule. Most of those who indicated that lack of programs/courses in their area of interest was an obstacle named programs that were already available (leading one to wonder how much of an obstacle it truly was). One area, however, that respondents mentioned fairly frequently was the desirability to have graduate degrees in the health sciences and social sciences; the particular area varied widely, however, from respondent to respondent.

The top service that respondents thought would attract and retain them in graduate school was the offering of more summer courses. The other areas in the top three were graduate assistantships and courses/programs offered through distance learning. There were few differences between current and potential graduate students in this area.

Personal satisfaction was given as the main reason why someone would want a graduate degree. For current enrollees, career change was another major reason. For potential graduate students, the appeal of improved earnings was important. These differences could have been a function of age as well as enrollment status, however, since current enrollees were somewhat older than the potential enrollee group.

In general, findings indicate that potential graduate enrollees differ in very few ways from the current graduate enrollees. One implication of this finding is that most graduate students will continue to be part-time, fitting graduate courses into a full work schedule. They will continue to want a more flexible and non-traditional course delivery system, such as one that provides courses during the summer and through distance learning.

Any efforts to attract graduate students should emphasize the personal satisfaction that can be derived from pursuing and obtaining a graduate degree. Two areas probably will need to be addressed in order to significantly expand the graduate market. One is the issue of how to finance a graduate education. The second is the perception of BSU as an graduate-level institution. Only 55% agreed BSU has modern labs and equipment, and fewer than half the respondents agreed that there is good support for graduate programs at BSU.

Appendix A

Do not mark outside this line

Are you currently enrolled in a graduate level program? 1 for No 2 for Yes

If yes, are you enrolled in graduate school at BSU? 1 for NO 2 for Yes Major _____

If no, are you interested? 1 for NO 2 for Yes What area_____

On the following questions please use this scale:
1 for Strongly Agree 2 for Agree 3 for Disagree 4 for Strongly Disagree 5 for Not Applicable

The following are obstacles to obtaining my graduate degree:

Family obligations

Work schedule

Finances

Program/course availabilty

The enrollment process

Motivation

The following services would make it more likely for me to attend and complete graduate school:

Child care at BSU

Graduate assistantships

Graduate student housing

Career advisement

Internships with local employers

Courses offered through distance learning

Summer courses

A program in my area of interest (Area of interest is _____)

A graduate degree would be attractive to me because:

I would earn more

It would advance my career

My job requires it

I'd like to make a career change

It is personally satisfying

Please indicate your perceptions of BSU in the following areas:

BSU has a good academic reputation

BSU has quality faculty

BSU has modern laboratories and equipment

There is good support for graduate programs at BSU

Gender: Please mark 1 for Male 2 for Female

Age: Please mark 1 for Under 21 2 for 21-25 3 for 26-30 4 for 31-40 5 for 41 and Over

Where did you complete your undergraduate degree?

1 = I have not yet finished it
2 = Boise State University
3 = University of Idaho
4 = Idaho State University
5 = Other _____

Comments:

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Appendix B

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
				Decided not to get my MLS because: 1. Don't want the responsibility of a librarian; 2. Becoming a librarian in a small college takes me away from helping the students and puts me in the position of more paper work, and making more decisions concerning; budget, staff meetings, board members, etc.
				BSU needs to get aboard the high tech. bandwagon and get a computer networking system. This would streamline the enrollment process, allow students to spend less time in lines, waiting on phones, etc. BSU has a prehistoric system.
B.S. Management		Production Mgt.		
		Adult Ed. PhD	Utah State-BLA, MS	
	Poss. Voc. Ed.	Voc Ed.		
	History	History		
	School Counseling	Counseling		Evening Day-care, Summer time, I'm not very knowledgeable of BSU Master's program reputation.
		Administration		I attended BSU in graduate studies and I could not ever find a path that felt good. I just couldn't find a masters program that I wanted.
		Phys. Education	Pepperdine Un.	
		Reading or curriculum		BSU needs to have a wider selection in the masters program fro teachers. More evening, weekend & summer programs with funding you could work off!
				I am finishing my student teaching this semester
	MBA	Marketing		
	Education	Education		
	Bus. Accounting	Accounting		
			BYU	
		Management		
	Social Work			
				I have been thinking about going back to get my masters, but I worry about having the time to do it. I work two jobs as it is.
		Education		

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Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
Ed. Admin..		Ed. Admin.		
	Administration	Ed.. Admin.	Albertson Col.	
			Washington State	
	Ed. Reading, Science	Reading, science, art		
		Education		
		B.S.. Com.	Central Mich. Uni, Doctorate from Memphis State	
				I graduated two years ago.
		International B.S..	Whitman College	I received my MBA from BSU in May 1994
MA in education		Early Childhood		
Spec. Ed.		Spec. Ed., Voc. Ed. Teaching		Some teachers in dept of education have never taught in public (elem. , secondary) schools and they try to teach ideas or concepts that are impossible or impractical in the average classroom. They are not in touch with realty. They make it sound like public school teachers have large budgets and only 25 students. Wonderful dream.
	MBA			
		Nursing	Cal. State Bakersfield	I have my graduate degree. Graduated last year. I am currently pursuing a second MS at another university.
Business		Food Tech./Nutrition	U Of C, Davis	
	Health Science			
Ed/Reading			U of Delaware	
Exercise Phys.		Resp. Care, Hlth. promotion		I enjoy BSU, and continuing education, I was recently accepted into graduate exercise physiology. I hope this survey benefits myself and others Rob DeVimsne 518-62-1663
			Central Washington State	
Early Child. Ed.				I am a teacher and summer classes are more convenient for me. Many courses I have wanted (and needed) to take have been offered in the summer, but then canceled. This has been inconvenient and frustrating.

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
			U of Oregon	
Cur. & Instr.		Math Education		
			U of Virginia	
			U of Nevada	
	Education	Education	C of Idaho	I started a graduate class in reading education. The majority of the students were recent graduates that were not hired for the current school year. The requirements were such that I would have had to spend every weekend in the library. I did not feel that the class met the needs of working teachers.
Geology				There is not enough support through faculty or financial support in the BSU Geosciences Graduate Program.
		English Lit-Writing	U of LaVerne (California)	The GRE is a stumbling block for me. I felt I'd never be able to pass the math part wanted to get an advanced degree in English, had an almost straight A average in undergraduate school.
	IPT		Southern Illinois	
Counseling				
MBA				
Interdisciplinary		A counseling program for people who have to work for a living		The p_____ social work and counseling classes are grand to the financially elite or those who are dependent on someone else to take care of them. This leaves out people who must work for a living in addition we can't take the classes because we are not in the program.
MBA				
Ed. Technology		Computers-hardware		
MBA or MPA		Human Resource Mgmt, MBA		Current MBA program has not management courses, no business ethics courses. Same professors teach graduate and undergraduate courses - offering no new ideas. Same courses, same books used graduate and undergraduate.
	MBA, Accounting		Point Loma Nez College	
		Sociology		
MPA		Public Admin..	Davidson College	

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
	MBA	MBA	Out of country	
	English	MA in English		
	Marketing	Marketing		
	Phy. Therapy	Phy. Therapy		
	Family Nurse practitioner	Family Nurse Practitioner		
	MBA			
	Art	Photography		Many of the adjunct teaching staff should be hired on as permanent teachers.
		Nursing		
		Nursing		
		Education - Reading		
	History			I am retired and have no job aspirations
			Cameron State Un. Lawton, OK	
		Forestry or wild land fire		I am currently working for the forest service in fires, and I would be interested in related coursework.
		Radiology		
	Nursing			
		Education/Early Childhood already offered	Arizona State University	I had to withdraw from the Masters in Education program because of family & financial obstacles. Commuting was also a problem. I would have been able to complete the program had things been offered in Mt. Home. However, it is very difficult to overcome family, financial and commuting problems
		Law		
		Marketing/General Business		

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
School Counsel		Counseling	Cal. University @ Northridge	The program I am enrolled, (Masters for School counselor) wanted people from a variety of career fields, but the program is designed for teachers - 10-13 summer day class are scheduled, probably 1/4 of the 21 students work in the schools and have summers available for school. It is difficult to accomplish for 3/4 or 15 of the 21 students.
	English		BYU	
Vocal Pedagogy			Northwest Nazarene & Pacific Lutheran University	
	MBA	MBA		I would like to get my MBA if a company could pick me up and finance it while I work for them.
	Psychology	Psychology	Not Started	I have a degree in voc. tech. and it would be a complete career change and I would have to start over.
Ed. Tech		IPT		
	Psychology	Psychology		
	Occupational Therapy	Occ. Therapy		
	MBA			
Ed Tech				
	Education	Education		
		Graphic Design		
		Public Admin..		BSU will never be a top flight university until the legislature quits screwing us in favor of U OF I. We need to move vo-tech etc. out of the university and into a community college _____ from BSU in finding a location.
Education C&I				
		Technology	Arizona State	
MBA			Washington State University	

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
MBA		Health Care Mgt.	Duke University	When asked if one had the choice to attend BSU or a more highly regarded University, most students note that if feasible, they would go elsewhere, but generally job, finances, family, preclude that. BSU should do more promotion of academic standards, research activities, etc. that could improve its image.
Ed. Tech			Goshen College Goshen, IN	
History		Women in 17th Century Mexico		
C/I				
MBA			BYU	
		Education-Spec. Ed/Admin..		
	Envir. Health	(Food) quality control		
Elem. Ed.		Elem. counseling		I am not enrolled in a graduate level program as I will not graduate until Fall 96?
	Athletic Training-Exer. Physiology	Athletic Training		
		Psych. Counsel		
Exercise Science		Sport Psychology		As stated above the faculty that is currently at BSU is exceptional - yet they seem to have a little too much to do (they're overloaded) The student enrollment is increasing in my dept. yet the faculty population remains the same? Equipment and facilities seem barely adequate - more funding seems to be allocated elsewhere? For example I have been in the same class room for 5 out of 6 of my classes. If more space and faculty were available then more and a wider diversity of classes would also be available for the students. I feel this would encourage more 1 on 1 interaction between the student & the teacher; thus enhancing the learning experiences of both. Overall I am satisfied with the program and the current faculty.
	Not at BSU	FNP or Occ. Health		Undergraduates degrees completed at BSU. Some instructors were excellent, some were terrible. BSU's reputation throughout the Northwest is very weak to poor. The NSG dept. staff is extremely dysfunctional and make graduation difficult impossible. They are out of touch with the real world and abuse their authority.
	Education	Education		I will complete my second bachelor's degree on May 12, 1996.

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
	Criminal Justice/Mgt.	Criminal Justice		
		Inter. Business		
T.A. Undergrad	Musical Theat.	Theat/Music		Presently taking undergraduate major because no graduate programs or even graduate courses in Theatre. No musical Theatre option in music dept. graduate program.
	B.S., Management			
	Undecided	Waste Mgt/Lean Mgmt.		
	Hlth. medicine	Health		
		Teaching		
			Pomona College	
Inter. Studies		Counseling-Family MSW		Problems: Minimal graduate degrees (Master) even less for PhD. Parking for people who work during the day and take early lunch for an a.m. class; lighting to walk from BSU stadium to ed. building at night. Minimal resources at BSU library. Registration - how about pre-registration by FAX; phone; do-it-yourself computer entry?
			U of Arizona	
	Deaf Ed. Early Childhood	Deaf Ed		With inclusion so popular, more H1 students are in classrooms. I would like to help get it started in Meridian - I would have to leave the state to get certified.
			Emory Univ. Atlanta, GA	
Education			Oregon State	I haven't been in the graduate program very long. So I have a limited ability to evaluate it.
		Social Work		At age 67, I find full-time attendance physically and emotionally stressful.
MBA				This survey is worded very poorly.
	Education			
Education		Education-Reading		Have you considered using a focus group to obtain more accurate and useful information on this subject? I think you should.
	Art	Art		

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
	Education Psychology			
	Education	Education	Not started	
		Elem. Ed.		
				I'm 3 ½ to 80 points and have a private business to pursue. Graduate school has no value for me.
	Criminal Justice	Criminal Justice		
		Education		
		Computer Network Consultant		
	Not at this time			
	Business	Business	Eastern Oregon State	
		Education/Mgt.		
	MPA	Political Theory		Being a state employee, there is no incentive to pursue advanced degrees. The state does not provide tuition assistance, and there are no monetary or ladder advancements for obtaining advanced degrees.
	MPA	Public Admin..	Lewis/Clark State College	
	Adult Education-Instructing	Adult Ed.	Northwest Nazarene	
		Performance technology		
	Education	Adult Ed.		
			Iowa State	
Raptor Biology				
	Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation		
Education				
	Psychology			

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
	MBA	MBA		
	Raptor Biology	Raptor Biology	State University of New York at Fredonia	I would love to be a graduate student at BSU but finances prohibit it. More Assistantship funds would be a great way for BSU to go tot increase its grad program.
				I already have my graduate degree from BSU in early childhood education.
	Natural Resources			This survey was hard for me because I haven't looked into a graduate program yet, so I really don't know what BSU has to offer.
		early childhood education		
		Physics		
	B.S.. Marketing	Marketing		
	Pol. Science	Masters		I found some of the professors very negative. I had a difficult time finishing some courses because of their attitude. It reflected in my grades in these classes.
		Social Work		
	Business			
	MSW	Social issues		
	Accounting	Accounting		
		Book arts		
	Athletic Admin..	Athletic Admin.	Eastern Oregon State	
	Geology/Enviro	Geology/Enviro	University of North Colorado	
IPT		IPT	BYU	
		Ed. Administration	Cal Poly Pomona	It should be mentioned that my intention is to transfer to the University of Idaho. Their, I can receive my degree in Educational Administration. Originally, my intention was to receive a Masters in Education at BSU, but I changed my career objectives. UOFI's program will allow me to reach my objectives.
Ed. Technology		Ed. Technology	Eastern Oregon State College	

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
Education		Law	Calif. University	
Education		Masters in Early Childhood		
IPT			USC	
Ed. Tech				
	Biochemistry	Biochemistry		
		Drama		
	Marketing	Marketing	CSU Los Angeles	
		Early Childhood Development	Western Illinois University	
				I have completed my graduate degree requirements. Questions no longer apply.
Exercise & Sports Studies		Phys. Ed.	BYU	Being a graduate assistant I was required to work on campus. Often free parking was either very limited or non-existent. Free parking or discount parking passes would have been extremely helpful. I have loved my graduate program at BSU. It has been one of the highlight of my life.
Inter. Dis. Studies		Am. Studies, Math to PhD.		I would like to see: More recognition for the MA/MS interdisciplinary studies program (financial to otherwise). A PhD program in interdis. studies. Increased opportunities for Graduate students to co-teach with their professors, and research and work in their chosen fields of study.
IPT		Human Performance	NY Regents	I am a distant learner and will likely stay this way. Need to get this survey out quicker if you want it back in 3 days.
School Counseling				
History				
			Walla Walla College	I may not be the best representative of other graduate students since I'm not pursuing a graduate degree right now, and am not even sure I'll continue in that particular field. The enrollment is always a big hassle and lots of red tape. Why is no action taken when students indicate there are serious problems with a professor?
	MSW		Gamaficho University (Brazil)	
Ex. Science		Cardiac Rehab/Nutrition	Seattle University	

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
Social Work		Clinical SW	College of Idaho	The really good professors are few in the social work program (Masters Level). The program needs to become more diversified and gain more expertise in the child/family clinical areas. Most of the SW professors lack in their ability to teach (exception, Martha Wilson)
	Education	Education		
	Doc. Ed or Women Studies	Women Studies	Central Washington	
Business/Mktg.				
Music			George Mason University	
	Forestry	Wildlife Avian-Owls	Stephen F. Austin, Nacogdoches, TX	
IPT			Indiana University	
	Geological Information Systems	GIS		
	Counseling	Psychology		
	Education			My situation may be a little different. Since I finished my elementary ed. degree I have been able to stay at home with my daughter while my husband works and goes to graduate school. I would like to take graduate classes to fulfill my teacher certificate, but we can't afford the time or tuition.
Teacher Certificate		Nutrition		
		Adult Education		
	Education (Bilingual)	Teaching ESL		
History		Am. West History		
History	Military History U.S.	Regents College		I thing BSU is doing/offers a great program in history. Distance learning graduates courses in all programs are the coming thing. BSU would be great if you offered a graduates program in military history or studies.
		Instr. & Perf. Technology	Westminster College	

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
	Inst. Technology	Inst. Technology	Wayne State University Detroit, MI	
	Com./Pub. Relations	Com./Pub. Relations		
	Education	Reading or Math Education		I am very motivated to get a masters degree. I have ben told I need to teach for a few years so I won't be over qualified and over paid. I at least want to start teaching and earning $ to pay for school. Also I'll have a better idea of where I want to specialize. Summer classes are helpful for teachers. I haven't looked into the graduate program yet.
	Education			
	Education			
	Public Affairs			
	Sm. Bus. Admin..			
EDD Educ.		Cognate School Change	Oregon State, Un. of Washington	Faculty needs to work collaboratively to create quality programs. Programs & courses need to cross department lines through the university. Tenured faculty need to be accountable.
IPT		IPT	George Fox College, Newberg, OR	I was out of town when this came. I hope it's not too late.
		Mgmt. Info. Systems	San Jose State	
	Medicine	Phys. Asst.		I don't expect BSU to get a medical school, but have some more health related fields would be nice. BSU has some neat teachers and some pretty awful ones too--need to re-evaluate tenure system.
		MBA		
Sp. Ed.		Sp. Ed.	University of CA, Riverside	
	Master of Science in Ed. Tech.	Technology		
			UC Davis, CA	
	Social Work/ Counseling			

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Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
	Washington Boulder Co.	Elec. Engineering		
				Already received my masters degree at another school
Law		Law		I am very disappointed that BSU's record keeping department is nor more organized than it is. I am somewhat offended that your initial letter referred to me as a graduating senior, when in fact I graduated almost three years ago. That does not make me proud to say that I received my undergrade degree from Boise State University!!
	Education(Elem)			I'm not sure what good this survey will do as I'm just beginning my Course studies in elem. ed. and at this time am not even close to considering graduates school.
Social Work			University of Virginia	
	Social work, public health	health care administration	Willamette University	I live in Twin Falls, and am frustrated that the only graduate program available locally are Masters in Nursing and Education thru ISU. I would really appreciate a wide array of graduates programs and courses through satellite transmissions. Also would like availability of more short programs like insurance, investments applicable to enhancing career opportunities.
	Presently no			
Nursing	NA - don't offer	Nursing		
	Tech. Communications	Tech. Com.	BYU	
		Ed. Tech.		
	Uncertain			
MPA				
	MA Education	See Comments Below		As a teacher I take many workshops and courses which I cannot use towards on MA. In addition we often create curricula and programs which require as many hours as the course work towards an MA. I would like to be able to negotiate some of my requirements - not all, but some. Additional \documentation might be necessary, but it seems if someone can get an honorary degree, that there might be a way to be more flexible on some requirements for an earned degree. Peggy Hurd 345-6767
		law		
IPT		IPT		We need more PhD options int he valley area.
		speech pathology		

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
Engineering		Civil Eng.		
		ed. tech.	Univ. of Utah	
Communication	Communication	Communication	College of Idaho	I was enrolled in the Graduate com.. program, but was disappointed by the rather drab and impersonal nature of the school. No one seemed "into" the program. I'm headed somewhere else.
		Already graduated IPT program		
	Health Policy/ research			
			Central MO State	I would like to comment that when I had to call to the graduates admissions office I was very displeased with my experience. I had to repeat my question 5-6 times because the person I was speaking with never listened to the complete question I asking but responding to what he (a male) thought I was asking. I know ½ listening occurred because his response was correct if you only listened to part of the question, but he never responded to the relevant part. Please take my comments to heart, because if I had been given better attention my 20 minute phone call would have only taken 5 minutes. This dramatically affected my impression and opinion of the school. I would not attend BSU because of the treatment I was given - treated as though I had 0 intelligence.
		Construction Mgt.		
English			USC	
ECE		Early Childhood	US Naval Academy	
	Business	Business	CSUUB	
	MBA		U of Oregon	I need counseling re: transferring credits & GPA
		Accounting		
			USC	I am not a student of Boise State, I have applied and been accepted in the past.
MPA		Economics		
	Sociology	Sociology		
	Med Tech/Medicine	Science/Med.		
	Social Sciences	Social Sciences		

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
		Ed.		
			Kent State	I've already graduated
			UCLA	
	Athletic Admin..			
	MIS	MIS		
		Human Resource/Law		
MBA				
		Education & English Secondary		
	Nurse Practitioner or Anesthesia			
	Business	Business		
Int. Studies		Envion. Geology		
		Education		I completed my master's degree in 1992 so these questions do not apply to me now.
Education Art		Art	Lewis & Clark College, Portland	I think these needs to be much more communication between the administration advisors and the art professors. The MA in education, Art program needs to be organized better. Also, is there enough space for a graduates program there? Perhaps a new building is in order.
	Public Admin..	Public Admin..		BSU is the most expensive I've ever attended. I dislike instructors forcing students to share handouts. Seems to me the school should be able to ensure adequate number of copies (handouts) are available for students.
				Sorry I didn't get this back sooner. A graduate program doesn't appeal to me simply because school is not one of my favorite things. If I entered a graduate program, it would be only because it was necessary for my career.
MBA			Bucknell University	Enrollment is a giant hassle from Payette.

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
		Human Resources		My experience as a BSU student was not that good. The college of business advising process is very poor, the registrars office is slow in processing transcripts, I was forced to take the same professor for 3 different classes due to no other choices, and the schools job placement program is almost non-existent. while talking with a HR person working for one of the major corps. in Boise, I learned the company does not recruit from BSU.
	Education			
				Graduate this May in elemen. ed so this survey doesn't really apply to me.
Undeclared/MBA		Environ. MBA	University of Vermont	Why no GMAT PCEP for the June Exam? Boise's reputation is good in Idaho. MBA program is not perceived as very reputable in other areas. I am disheartened that you have to be enrolled as an MBA student to take MBA classes. Why can't I take an MBA course before I apply and am accepted to the program?? Harvard Extension School, Boston College, all let students do this.
	MBA	MBA		BSU has a strong business school, but they need to develop a strong and reputable engineering program
	Inst. Perf. Tech.	CIS		
	IPT	Multi-Media and Internet	Un. of Washington	Many of my interests have only been addressed through self-study. I have found academic departments resistant to creativity and dynamic interdisciplinary study. Not an enlightened view! It sucks and is disappointing. Need more flexibility.
	Medical doctor	Medical		I have picked my major to help others "personally satisfying" the chemistry department is the best for its resourcefulness with little or poor equipment. The faculty also goes beyond school to help people (i.e., Dr. Banks, Dr. Lamm , Dr. Stark and Dr. Mercer)
Ed. Tech		Ed. Tech.		I have had a great experience with Carolyn Thorsen my advisor, and I admire her. I have not enjoyed classes taught by graduate assistants. I took my last graduates level class in the summer of 1994.
Tech comm.			Hobart College	
		Biology		
History		History		I would like to see BSU ran more like an efficient business that caters to its customers (the students) first and foremost. I find BSU to be lacking in "customer" service
	SW			

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
Education			Chapman Univ.	Having completed a graduate degree at another institution. I don't believe you have a very rigorous program. I wouldn't choose to do a graduate program here for that reason. The reason I am enrolled is as a vehicle to certification, your graduate program offers more rigor than your undergraduate.
	raptor biology		SUNY at Fredonia	I would sincerely like to complete my graduate degree at BSU. If graduate assistant ships had been available I would have been able to enroll 2 or 3 years ago.
	Public Affairs		U of Utah	
	SW	SW		
	Bus/Marketing	Market/Adver.		
	Civil Engin.	Civil Engin.		
	Economics	Economics		
		PE		
English				
Geophysics				Geophysics program does not have a good reputation with respect to advising/career consultation. Very research-oriented, not student-oriented.
			Cal. State-Fullerton	
	Business			
		Accounting		
	Criminal Juvenile Justice		Humboldt State University	
Education	Education			I am only 6 credits away from a Masters in Reading and reading specialist added to my certification in teacher education.
History		Latin American Studies		
	Spanish	Foreign Language		
		Education		
	Music Pedagogy			
	Bs. Admin.	MBA		

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
	Paint./Drawing	Art		I am hoping to see the MFA program to begin at BSU so that I can do graduate work here instead of attending another school.
		Psychology		I am in a graduates, Ph.D. program at U of Montana, I answered these questions based on that.
MPA				
	English	English		
		Math Secondary Ed.		
	Social Work	Licensed Clinical SW -LCSW	Maryville College, Tennessee	
	English		Coll. of Idaho	
				Don't really like surveys
	Early Childhood			Evening classes once per week and some financial assistance are most appealing. Thank you.
				I have gained my graduate degree in Spring of 1995
	Criminal Justice	Criminal Justice		
			Indiana U of Pennsylvania	12/95 Graduation - MBA
	Ph.D. Psychology	Clinical psychology		
	MBA - CIS			
	Counseling/Bs.	Counseling/Bs.		
	Health Sciences Natural Resource Mangement		Natural Resource Mangement & Nutritional Science	Since 4 year degrees are no longer the "ticket" to a good career many students are heading to graduate school. BSU would keep more people in their University if more graduate courses were offered.
	Business/Geography	Business/Geography	Eastern Oregon State College	
	Psychology	Psychology - SW	Western Washington University	
MBA		Finance		

Major	What Area	Interest	Other	Comments
IPT		IPT	Western Washington University	
		Toxicology	Berry College Rome, Georgia	